



Brownfields Initiatives in Region 8

Office of Outreach and Special Projects (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Currently, there are a number of Regionally funded Brownfields-related activities, such as targeted site assessments in urban areas, financial support of State voluntary cleanup programs, financial support of State regulation development, Inter-governmental Personnel Assignments (IPA) to cities, and outreach activities. Some of these activities are in the form of Regional or National pilots, while others are smaller scale actions such as prospective purchaser agreements. This fact sheet is one in a series of ten which outline Brownfields-related activities occurring in each of the ten Regions.

OVERVIEW

EPA Region 8 is organizing many Brownfields activities. These activities are primarily centered around the Region 8 Sand Creek Corridor Brownfields Pilot Northeast of Metro Denver. The pilot project is a partnership among the City of Denver, the City of Commerce City, the State of Colorado, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, and EPA Region 8. The Center for Public/Private Sector Cooperation at the University of Colorado-Denver is facilitating the project.

The two main goals of the Sand Creek project are to:

- Define barriers to economic redevelopment in contaminated areas; and
- Develop strategies for cleanup and sustainable redevelopment.

ACTIVITIES

As part of the pilot project, EPA Region 8 has undertaken or is planning the following activities to build its Brownfields program:

- Focus groups have been held with parties affected by brownfields to gain their input on barriers to development and relevant community issues;

- An outreach program is targeting groups interested in brownfields issues. The program intends to inform groups of EPA's objectives and intended changes. This also will allow EPA to understand the "real-world" environmental obstacles to economic redevelopment;
- Region 8 is working with its States to encourage development of State voluntary cleanup programs so that owners or developers can clean up sites themselves with State oversight and assurance;
- A forum will be held in April to educate realtors, lenders, appraisers, developers, consultants, and attorneys about relevant brownfields issues;
- An information clearinghouse will be established where interested parties can obtain information on brownfields cleanup and redevelopment approaches;
- Region 8 has assigned two IPAs in the State of Colorado; and
- Region 8 awarded one additional Brownfields pilot in September 1995 to the City of West Jordan, UT.

EPA Region 8 has made numerous efforts to inform the public of Brownfields issues by holding meetings and seminars. The following Brownfields meetings have occurred or are planned in Region 8:

- Environmental Business Leaders - February 1995
- Society of Mining Engineers - March 1995
- Stapleton Redevelopment Foundation - March 1995
- HUD panels on CDBG and Economic Development - April 1995
- Colorado Hazardous Waste Management Society - April 1995
- HUD Tribal Conference - April 1995
- Environmental Roundtable - April 1995
- Design Workshop Consultants - May 1995
- Metro Denver Network (Economic Development Committee, Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce) - May 1995
- Colorado Mortgage Lenders Association - June 15
- American Bar Association - June 1995
- ENSR Engineering Consultants - June 1995

- Colorado Real Estate Commission - June 1995
- EPA Federal Facilities Conference - June 1995
- Hazardous Waste Action Coalition's 1995 Fall Meeting - November 1995.

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